

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 099335

70

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

NEA:ARDA

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

NEA/ARP:FDICKMAN

PM:TSTERN

DOD/OSD/ISA:COL. RTHOMPSON (INFO)

DOD/DSAA:LT. COL. CPERKINS (INFO)

S/S:DMACK

----- 088020

O 240136Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 099335

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR MASS JO US SA

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

REF: JIDDA 2919

1. WE READ DETAILS OF YOUR APRIL 20 CONVERSATION WITH PRINCE FAHD (REFTEL) WITH APPRECIATION FOR YOUR WELL THOUGHT-OUT EFFORTS. WE WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT YOU PLACED REPEATED EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR JOINT U.S.-SAUDI APPROACH TO JORDANIANS.

2. IF AND WHEN YOU RECEIVE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM PRINCE FAHD REGARDING SAG'S WILLINGNESS TO FINANCE PARED-DOWN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 099335

PACKAGE OF FOURTEEN HAWK BATTERIES AND 100 VULCANS, WE HAVE

FULL CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ABILITY TO WORK OUT JOINT U.S.-SAUDI TACTICS TO BE FOLLOWED IN PRESENTING THE ARRANGEMENT TO KING HUSSEIN. OUR FEELING IS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DEFER TO SAUDI PREFERENCES IN THIS REGARD, SINCE IT IS THEIR MONEY THAT IS AT ISSUE, AND WE WOULD AGREE. WHILE WE WOULD BE PREPARED, FOR EXAMPLE, TO HAVE SAUDI AND U.S. AMBASSADORS IN AMMAN COORDINATE THEIR APPROACHES TO GOJ (WITH FORMER ADVISING OF SAG'S DECISION AND BOTH RECOMMENDING JORDANIAN ACCEPTANCE), IT MAY BE THAT PRINCE FAHD--IN LIGHT OF HIS PAST CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS SUBJECT WITH KING HUSSEIN--WILL

WISH TO SEND PERSONAL MESSAGE TO HUSSEIN INFORMING HIM OF SAUDI DECISION. IN ANY EVENT, YOU MAY BE SURE THAT IF SAUDIS COME THROUGH BY ACCEPTING OUR PARED-DOWN, DOLS 520 MILLION PROPOSAL, WE STAND READY TO BACK THEM TO THE LIMIT IN RECOMMENDING IT TO HUSSEIN.

3. AMBASSADOR PICKERING WOULD INFORM HUSSEIN THAT WE REGARD THE ARRANGEMENT PRODUCED BY OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SAUDIS AS THE BEST THAT COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE BEEN OBTAINED, THAT IT MEETS JORDAN'S MILITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR A 14-BATTERY/100 GUN SYSTEM, AND THAT IT REFLECTS AN EXTRAORDINARY GESTURE OF GENEROSITY ON PART OF SAG. (INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE HANDLING OF THE SECOND STAGE WILL BE IN SEPTEL TO AMB. PICKERING). WE LEAVE IT TO YOU TO PERSUADE FAHD, IN WHATEVER MANNER HE DECIDES TO APPROACH THE JORDANIANS, TO COMPLEMENT THIS PRESENTATION BY SPEAKING ALONG SAME GENERAL LINES.

4. ANOTHER ELEMENT WE WILL WANT TO GET ACROSS TO HUSSEIN, EVEN IF SAUDIS DO NOT, IS OUR EXPECTATION THAT RESOLUTION OF THE AIR DEFENSE FUNDING QUESTION WILL BANISH ANY THOUGHTS HE OR RIFAI MAY STILL ENTERTAIN ABOUT ENTERING INTO A SIGNIFICANT ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. YOU HAVE ALREADY LAID GROUNDWORK FOR A JOINT U.S.-SAUDI POSITION ON THIS TOPIC IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH PRINCE FAHD, AND WE HOPE YOU WILL ENCOURAGE HIM TO JOIN US IN ADVISING HUSSEIN THAT (A) SOVS HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER JORDAN BUT ARMS, AND THIS ONLY AT A DANGEROUS POLITICAL PRICE FOR A COUNTRY SUCH AS JORDAN, AND (B) WHATEVER  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 099335

INTENTION HUSSEIN MAY HAVE, AND HOWEVER LIMITED HE MIGHT HOPE HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVS MIGHT BE, HE WOULD SET IN MOTION A PROCESS THAT COULD IN TIME DEPRIVE JORDAN OF ITS TRADITIONAL US AND SAUDI SUPPORT AND LEAVE IT ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON THE USSR.

5. FOREGOING REPRESENTS ONLY OUR TENTATIVE THINKING. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS OR OTHER IDEAS YOU OR AMBASSADOR

PICKERING MAY HAVE. SISCO

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIR DEFENSE, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE099335  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TJCAROLAN:PDW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760155-0370  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760426/aaaaavkx.tel  
**Line Count:** 116  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 JIDDA 2919  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 OCT 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <17 JUN 2004 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <14 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JORDAN AIR DEFENSE FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, JO, US, SA, (FAHD, PRINCE)  
**To:** JIDDA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006